

## A Correction

The new church building in Waterloo, Iowa, will be dedicated December 9, instead of November 25 as stated in last week's paper.

### To All Christian People

The Evangelical Alliance has announced its program for the Week of Prayer, and made its appeal to the people. It is as follows:

At the close of the last century a Concert of Prayer was observed by many Christians of both the old world and the new, and the united intercession was followed by unusual spiritual blessing. Accordingly, by more than one ecclesiastical fellowship abroad, and by some of our own Christian leaders, the wish for a similar WORLD-WIDE UNION OF PRAYER has been earnestly expressed, and various movements in the direction of united prayer during the coming months have actually been entered upon.

These are times of both hopefulness and dread. On the one hand, there are unwonted tokens of the coming of God's Kingdom. Light is everywhere breaking forth. In realms material, intellectual, spiritual, there is onward movement. Old ignorances and superstitions and tyrannies, are breaking up. The rights and duties of the individual, the office and welfare of society, the mission of the Church, the largeness of the Kingdom itself, are better and better understood. The brotherhood of man, the Fatherhood of God, the unity in Christ of all true Christians, are taking on new meaning and new power. In spite of adverse forces, God is magnifying the witness for Himself in every land.

On the other hand, there is a perilous unrest. There is a vast questioning of truths and faiths. There is haughty half-assertion. There is a disposition to count this present world of controlling moment. The sense of the Word's inspired supremacy, of sin's fatal demerit, of God's infinite grace in Christ, of love's atoning sacrifice, of eternity's decisive awards, is far too weak. The veritable kingship of our Lord, the real sovereignty of His teaching and commands, His divine pre-eminence as the way, the truth, and the life, are far too lightly held.

Meanwhile, the world-movements sweep on. Nations are in commotion. Civilizations are in conflict. The coming century will be, in many ways, a decisive century. What then so urgent as true intercession with Him who, holding supreme control, has promised to hear and answer united prayer?

It is therefore recommended, as stimulating and emphasizing the movement for united prayer, that the first Sunday of December be everywhere given to earnest consideration of the great need, and to faithful request for God's great blessing,—special public and private intercession being thenceforth faith-

fully continued. It is also suggested that churches and individuals mark the advent of New Year's by watch-night prayer. Further, all believers are invited to devote the week (January 6th to 13th inclusive) of the new year and the new century, to special prayer for one another, for the Church Universal, and for the unsaved world.

If believers unite in the prayer of faith, remembering that faith includes the life and the works, the Kingdom will gloriously advance.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER

JANUARY 6, TO 13, INCLUSIVE

SUNDAY, Jan. 6th.—Appropriate sermons and services.

MONDAY—Prayer for a better realization of spiritual truth and a better estimate of spiritual realities; a clearer vision of the redeeming Christ, and of the actual need and the divinely intended glory of the world which he redeemed.

TUESDAY—Prayer for a church which, thru faith in Christ, and by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, shall be wholly Christian, doing God's will and winning the world to Christ.

WEDNESDAY—Prayer for such Christian character and life as shall be pleasant in the home, honored in business relations, welcomed in the neighborhood, helpful in the church,—personal religion being thus manifested in its rightful attractiveness.

THURSDAY—Prayer for right relations in society and the nation, with the Golden Rule obeyed as between man and man, and all social and political action guided by justice and good-will,—the Christian ideal.

FRIDAY—Prayer for all international relationships and all international action, that they may be based on the Christian principles which apply to the individual,—the reign of the Prince of Peace.

SATURDAY—Prayer for all missionaries, and all missionary organizations, that being wholly inspired by Christian devotion and wholly guided by Christian wisdom, they may speedily and triumphantly fulfill the Savior's last command.

SUNDAY, Jan. 13.—Appropriate sermons and services.

WILLIAM E. DODGE, Pres.

L. T. CHAMBERLAIN, Sec.

New York, Nov. 2, 1900.

### Before and After

An overdone scheme of patent medicine advertisement shows the picture of a patient, before and after taking. First you behold the haggard countenance of the pain-racked invalid, whose thoughts are evidently dwelling on coffins and graveyards. He is a stranger to peace and comfort. Uncertainty dwells upon his brow. That awful word, destiny, looms up before him with unusual emphasis. He knows not what door is about to open before his face, to invite or to compel his faltering steps. Then intervenes that miracle of science, that paragon, by its own testimony, of the mysterious healing art,—the patent medicine. Imagination depicts its authoritative and triumphant entry upon the stage. Infallibility is a term which barely describes its superlative merits. Omnipotence could scarcely do more than it promises. Panic seizes upon the innumerable ills of this human frame. Headlong flight

follows from nerve and bone and muscle and organ, and, presto, the erstwhile poor, decrepit, emaciated invalid stands before you a vigorous, rosy, smiling picture of health and happiness.

We have just passed thru a parallel experience in the body politic. For months the ills, diseases, pains and imminent perils of the national life were set forth with an infinite detail which left nothing to be desired. Then came the long procession of doctors and nostrums, the remedies, the medicines, the panaceas, the all healing concoctions, the faith cures, a vast multitude, a bewildering mob, who crowded around the unhappy patient. We do not marvel at his downcast looks, and the evident confusion of his thoughts. Was ever a poor fellow so beset with afflictions. But that was all before taking. Now we have the after, and the sick man appears to be very much better indeed. What is the secret of this apparently sudden recovery? Was the sick man shamming? Or did there prove to be a miracle in the virtues of the medicine?

Much of the periodical political agitation is mere splashing on the surface of our national life. It neither indicates nor modifies, to any vital extent, the character of the depths below. The great principles of human progress march steadily onward. Political agitators neither stem nor hurry this mighty tide. God reigns, and His infinite thought, His eternal purpose, is neither confused nor turned aside by the frantic human insect who imagines that he is, or is just going to be, or certainly would be if let be, the savior of his country. The divine purpose which was deposited in the birth of this nation, and which is being worked out in its marvelous growth and prosperity, will go steadily on to its final accomplishment. In the supreme plan, a plan which no finite mind is able to comprehend in all its grandeur, or in all its wide compass, each member of the community has his place, and we work out the will of God by following, in all the duties and responsibilities of our citizenship, the leading of an enlightened conscience, and the impulse of a high and unselfish purpose.

One of the peculiarities of our modern civilization, based as it is upon the large liberty which has come to the individual, is the association of men in distinct parties and groups, according to their agreement in matters either political or religious. Before religious liberty dawned upon the universal darkness of ecclesiastical intolerance, there was only one recognized church. Rome monopolized the plan of salvation. The Pope carried the keys of St. Peter, opening or shutting heaven to whom he pleased. For all dissenters there was anathema, the dun-geon and the stake. Before political liberty